

Minutes  
West Tisbury Space Needs Committee  
July 3, 2006

Present: Joe Eldredge, Les Cutler, Kent Healy, Chuck Hodgkinson, Sue Hruby, Beatrice Phear

Chuck opened the meeting at 8:00 am in the Howes House

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of June 26 were approved as distributed.

Kent suggested we also look at the Ben Moore town hall study, as well as the ones previously listed. It is available in the Town Hall.

**Selectmen's Meeting**

Chuck reported on the Selectmen's meeting. He, Kent and Kathy attended. They distributed a double sided one page sheet with committee membership, mission, and work plan to the Selectmen. He reported that Skipper Manter asked about a Warrant article and about sharing information with the public. Chuck told them we don't yet know. He told them we would go back every few weeks with an update report, which will thereby go to the press. Sue suggested also using Hermine Hull's and John Alley's local news columns.

Les said that we should invite the public to an open meeting for comments from time to time when we have something concrete, such as a list of projects. Even if nobody attends, we will be able to say they were invited.

**Police Survey**

Chuck distributed his interview notes, which had been emailed earlier. There was discussion about Beth Toomeys' stated needs: more officers, garage, records storage, etc. In each case we noted the need to turn stated needs into functions, with timelines, and justification. Ask what drives this need; force specificity and preferences; remember that department heads are not architects.

More officers could be for coverage of vacations and to reduce the expense of overtime or because there are too few today. Storage could be archival documents or firearms. Discover what is needed on site, and accessible, and what is to be stored for legal reasons, and in what format - computer, microfiche, paper? How many interviews are conducted?

Joe said he can convert everything into square feet, when we understand the functions. For example a holding cell should not be in a basement for egress codes.

Kent pointed out that Beth's initial comments about having the station be an inviting place and centrally located were important. Joe said we should look at the present fire station site in relationship to need.

Regarding Berth's comment that she would like to be in the Town Hall and next to the basket ball court, Joe said he was concerned about children playing next to the Police functions.

After the second pass at interviews, results will be brought back to department heads to double check.

### **Other**

There was discussion about shared space for meetings and the importance of understanding all the program and meeting needs. We must be careful in not crossing the line in regards to determining the value of a program (for example saying a building needs to be big enough to offer bluebird house construction projects). The town should be offered choices, and the cost implications of them. Joe warned that we cannot recommend the creation of a new institution to supervise joint space in a structure not associated with and therefore not administered by another town activity.

Chuck said he would research the assessors office looking at deed restrictions and rough floor plans for the main town owned parcels.

There was discussion about the location of the "town center" and if is evolving toward North Tisbury with the Post Office. Is this important to be concerned about?

### **Progress updates**

Les said Howard Curtis, at the library, is out of town. Since he is so new, it was suggested that Les also talk with Ebba Hierta or Nelia Decker. The program charge comes from the Library Trustees.

Kent said the Howes House/Library site is maxed out in terms of water, parking and septic.

Kent reported that Manny says the Public Safety building is fine.

Kent reported that Richie Olsen says he needs a garage

Kent reported that John Alley says the Cemetery Department needs no more space.

Chuck asked Kent to put his report in writing.

Bea reported that she spoke with the Council on Aging and has a list of users of the Howes House meeting rooms.

**Materials Distribution**

Chuck distributed: Photo of the dump  
Revised schedule  
Revised survey tool

Joe suggested adding two questions for those in the Town Hall: How much input did you have in the design of the 2005 plan? How well does it meet your needs?

It was pointed out that even the reduced, failed, 2005 plan is 50% larger than the Chilmark Town Hall. Chilmark has a community center which is not part of the town government, but it also has a less settled population.

Respectfully submitted  
Beatrice Phear

Approved July 10, 2006